

## Reorientation Counselor Addresses Polish Parliament

*The following note by Richard Cohen describes his recent speaking tour in Poland*

I had the honor of addressing members of the Polish Parliament in March 2004. Presently they are in the beginning stages of initiating legislation for same-sex marriage.

Parliamentary member Anna Sobocka of Torun, Poland introduced me. She spoke accurately about the state of affairs regarding the worldwide homosexual movement and their impact in Poland. She stressed that legalizing same-sex marriage would undermine the moral foundation of their society.

I then spoke to the parliament as follows:

"My name is Richard Cohen. I am the Director of the International Healing Foundation in the Washington, D.C. area of the United States of America. I am a professional psychotherapist, a husband to my wife Jae Sook, a father to my three children and a former homosexual man. I represent thousands of men of women around the world who have come out of homosexuality and live fulfilled heterosexual lives.

"I am here to tell you that *no one is born homosexual, and changing from gay to straight is possible*. Therefore, if you legislate same-sex marriage, you may think you're helping homosexual men and women, but in reality, you are actually hurting them because homosexual behavior is always a symptom of unhealed wounds and unmet love needs of childhood. If you legislate same-sex marriage, you would be reinforcing suffering and pain."

These were my initial comments as I addressed the Parliamentary members. The question and answer session went on for two hours! They were hungry to better understand homosexuality and what could be done in a proactive manner in order to protect those who experience such attractions.

Here are some of their comments and questions asked:

- "Where can people in Poland get help for unwanted same-sex attraction?"
- "I am a deputy to the Polish Parliament and I need such information to argue against special homosexual legislation."
- "How long did it take for you to change?"
- "So you're telling us that homosexuality is not genetic, therefore, it can be changed?"
- "Can homosexuals say what they do is in accordance

with nature because it feels that way to them?"

- "When the diagnosis of homosexuality was removed from the DSM in 1973, was it done because of scientific research or political pressure?"
- "How are strong homosexual lobbyists influencing worldwide politics?"
- "Homosexuals say they are born that way. Their political influence is huge. We need help!"
- "What can I do as a father to insure that my children won't become homosexual?"

As you can see, they are grappling with the very same issues that exist here in the States and throughout the world. However, Poland is about to enter the European Union. And the European Union is pressuring them to accept same-sex marriage into law. Therefore, there is great debate about this issue throughout Poland.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, I spoke at the College of Media and Culture in Torun, Poland, sponsored by Radio Maryja. There were over five hundred students, priests and concerned citizens who listened attentively as I explained the causes and healing of unwanted same-sex attraction. The students and others were so hungry to learn about this greatly misunderstood issue. They asked every question you could imagine, wanting clear answers to engage in public and private discourse.

Finally, on March 19<sup>th</sup>, I participated in Radio Maryja's TV and radio programs broadcast throughout Poland and to many affiliates around the world.

Pediatrician Dr. Ludwika Sadowska and I fielded very intelligent questions from viewers, listeners and students in the audience. Again, I found a great thirst for knowledge in order to come to grips with the issue of homosexuality. I strongly urged them to be the solution, embracing a man or woman with same-sex attraction, regardless of whether or not they choose to change. For the healing will not come legislatively—only through love and personal interaction.

It was a great honor to share with so many in such a short time. I thank Father Tadeusz Rdyzyk and Father Jacek Cydzik of Radio Maryja for inviting me and organizing all these activities. It was a bold move for them to stand up and speak about the truth that no one is born with same-sex attraction and change is possible. We pray for positive change to occur in Poland and throughout the world. ■